

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 190

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

COASTAL RES/COASTAL ZONE: Urges and requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the president of the U.S. to expedite permitting of the artificial barrier island plan

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Barack Obama,
3 President of the United States, to expedite permitting for the state of Louisiana's
4 coastal use permit application to dredge sand to be used to bolster our barrier islands
5 in order to prevent oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil leak from entering our
6 marshes.

7 WHEREAS, on April 21, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, located about
8 fifty miles southeast of Southwest Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River exploded,
9 killing eleven platform workers and instigating an oil leak that continues to gush crude oil
10 and natural gas into the depths of the Gulf of Mexico in amounts not adequately measured
11 at this point; and

12 WHEREAS, the estimates of the amount of oil and gas being leaked into the Gulf of
13 Mexico range from 5,000 barrels a day (equivalent to 210,000 gallons per day) to an
14 estimate given by scientists watching video of the oil and gas leak which is nearly five times
15 the official estimate by BP, the company responsible for the drilling accident; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana is the state located closest to the oil leak, and the state most
17 likely to have escaped crude oil washed up into its marshes and bays and estuaries; and

18 WHEREAS, there is universal agreement that protecting and cleaning up oil from
19 coastal beaches is significantly easier and less costly than preventing oil from entering

1 marshes and bays and estuaries and then attempting to clean those marshes, bays, and
2 estuaries after the oil has already inundated those areas; and

3 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana and the coastal parishes closest to the oil leak
4 have proposed a plan whereby sand will be dredged from coastal waters and placed along
5 the shores of our still existent barrier islands, along the passes at the mouths of the state's
6 bays, and along the edges of the marshes in an attempt to create barrier islands to capture as
7 much oil as possible prior to its entry into the marshes, bays, and estuaries; and

8 WHEREAS, in order to dredge the sand, the state must apply to the United States
9 Army Corps of Engineers for a coastal use permit, a permit for which the state has already
10 applied; and

11 WHEREAS, although the magnitude of the problem is apparent to the world and the
12 oil is already reaching our shorelines and entering our marshes, the United States Army
13 Corps of Engineers has not yet acted upon the permit; and

14 WHEREAS, our federal partners in the response to the massive oil leak in the Gulf
15 of Mexico continue to veto the possibility of the state acting to dredge sand off of our coast
16 in an attempt to protect our coast from a disaster not created by any action taken by the state
17 of Louisiana or the parishes most likely to be impacted by the disaster; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers is the only agency that can
19 approve Louisiana's application to dredge, and the president of the United States is in a
20 position to influence the decisions of federal agencies under his command.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Barack Obama, President
23 of the United States, to expedite permitting for the state of Louisiana's coastal use permit
24 application to dredge sand to be used to bolster our barrier islands in order to prevent oil
25 from the Deepwater Horizon oil leak from entering our marshes.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
27 president of the United States and to Lieutenant General Robert L. "Van" Van Antwerp,
28 United States Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army
29 Corps Engineers (USACE).

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Connick

HCR No. 190

Urges and requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Barack Obama, President of the U.S., to expedite permitting for the state of Louisiana's coastal use permit application to dredge sand to be used to bolster our barrier islands in order to prevent oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil leak from entering our marshes.